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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/678,549   | 10/02/2003  | Randy J. Schwindt    | JEV/KAR:1016.2019   | 2525             |
| 152  | 7590        | 04/18/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| CHERNOFF, VILHAUER, MCCLUNG & STENZEL<br>1600 ODS TOWER<br>601 SW SECOND AVENUE<br>PORTLAND, OR 97204-3157 |             |                      | KARLSEN, ERNEST F   |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 2829                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/678,549

Examiner

Ernest F. Karlsen

Applicant(s)

SCHWINDT ET AL.

Art Unit

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



**ERNEST KARLSEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

The following Reasons for Allowance is substituted for the Reasons for Allowance included in the Notice of Allowability of 13 January 2005:

**Reasons for Allowance**

No reference was found anticipating or a combination of references found making obvious a probe station having, a chuck assembly, a probe support, a positioning mechanism wherein the chuck assembly includes two conductive elements separated from each other by a gap with the major volume of the gap being filled with air and a conductive enclosure at least partially enclosing the chuck assembly with the conductive elements being separated with insulation elements. No reference was found anticipating or a combination of references found making obvious a probe station having a chuck assembly including at least two electrically conductive elements with at least one of the elements including an electrically conductive member extending toward the other, a probe support, a positioning mechanism and an electrically conductive environment control enclosure having a wall portion in spaced apart relationship to the other of the conductive elements with the electrically conductive member located therebetween, and defining a controlled environment region in communication with a surface area on the other one of the elements, the elements being separated by respective electrical insulation members from each other and from the conductive enclosure wherein the chuck assembly is moveable relative to the wall portion of the enclosure while a constant spacing is maintained between the electrically conductive member and the other of the elements. No reference was found anticipating or a combination of references found making obvious a probe station having a chuck

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assembly including an element with a laterally extending surface, a probe support, a positioning mechanism and a conductive component extending laterally in spaced relationship to the surface with the conductive component and the element being moveable with respect to each other wherein the conductive component having at least one hole through which a probe can extend wherein an electrically conductive enclosure at least partially encloses the chuck assembly and the conductive component with the element of the chuck assembly and the conductive component being separated from the conductive enclosure by insulation members.

**Examiner's Comment**

Claims 16-23 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Ernest F.

Karlsen at telephone number 571-272-1961.

Ernest F. Karlsen

14 April 2005

  
ERNEST KARLSEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER